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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO
10/607,001	06/26/2003	Howard A. Kingsford	05918-314001	5139
26161 7	590 10/07/2004		EXAMINER	
FISH & RICH 225 FRANKLI	HARDSON PC		BRITTAIN	JAMES R
BOSTON, MA 02110			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3677	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary    Topic   Examiner   Art Unit   3677	<del>/</del>	Application No.	Analicantica				
Examiner   James R. Brittain   3677	_						
ames R. Brittain  3677  - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  It is period for reply specified shoes it leas than britiny (30) days, as period to reply specified shoes it leas than britiny (30) days, as period or reply specified shoes it leas than britiny (30) days, as period with little 18 (4) (4) MONTHS from the mealing date of this communication.  If the period for reply specified shoes it leas than britiny (30) days, as period with little 18 (4) (4) MONTHS from the mealing date of this communication.  If the period for reply specified shoes it leas than the replacement of the replacement of the period of the specified of the specified or replacement of the period of the period of the specified or replacement and period on the period of the specified or replacement and period on the specified or replacement and period on the specified or replacement and period on the specified on the specified or replacement of the specified on the	<b>○</b> Office Action Summary						
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THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Edenions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CR 1.13(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely flied after SIX (6) MONTISS from the mailing date of this communication.  **Provision of the communication of the communicat			on soponationed day cost				
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final. 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4) Claim(s)	<ul> <li>THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.</li> <li>Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.</li> <li>If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any</li> </ul>						
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Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6) LJ Other:							

Art Unit: 3677

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Group I comprising the discrete fastening regions of figures 1-3 and 8-13; and Group II comprising the contiguous asymmetric fastening regions of figures 4-6.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1, 2, 5-13 and 17-25 are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

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Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James R. Brittain whose telephone number is (703) 308-2222. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30-2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (703) 306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Application/Control Number: 10/607,001

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James R. Brittain **Primary Examiner** Art Unit 3677

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JRB